

limitations. In a longitudinal study of visceral leishmaniasis in Bangladesh, Bern et al. reported loss of LST sensitivity attributed to antigen-production issues, such as standardization and documentation of sensitivity, potency, and stability of leishmanin antigens (5). Also, prior treatment with immunosuppressive agents, which influence cell-mediated immunity, may decrease LST prognostic potency similarly to changes observed for the tuberculin skin test in similar settings (6).

Variations in specificities and sensitivities limit the diagnostic potential of available diagnostic tools. The context of immunosuppression further contributes to the diagnostic complications and increases the need for additional research in leishmaniasis diagnostics.

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#### ANOTHER DIMENSION

### Red Snappers

**Erin E. McConnell**

for a moment pretend  
you are not  
the infallible house staff,  
but the latest admission—  
hacking putrid sputum  
from your soulful depths  
or your festering chest,  
depending on your mood.

slapped with a mask,  
you are secured in secluded rooms;  
a paucity of guests,  
but for the parade of absurd birds—  
plastered in Haz-mat  
lemon-yellow gowns,  
and peach-colored beaks.  
your meager dried-up sleep  
is aborted by  
bloodhungry fowl  
covetous of mucus  
you no longer produce.

your meals grow cold  
waiting for you  
in the anteroom of  
your negative pressure purgatory.

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